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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/988,202	11/19/2001	Tristan Barbeyron	01204DIV3	8205

7590 07/22/2004
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EXAMINER

PATTERSON, CHARLES L JR

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/988,202

Applicant(s)

BARBEYRON ET AL.

Examiner

Charles L. Patterson, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/269,731.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Claim 17 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the paper filed 10/3/03.

Applicants state that "non-elected subject matter has been canceled from" claim 17. As stated in the restriction requirement mailed 9/11/03, the protein of claims 12-15 can be made by another materially different process such as by isolating the protein from the natural source, not involving cloning of the gene. Therefore claim 17 is still withdrawn from consideration.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either of Barbeyron, et al. (U) or Potin, et al. (W). This rejection is repeated for the reasons given in the last action. Applicants arguments have been carefully considered but do not overcome the instant rejection.

Applicants argue that neither of the instant references "disclose or suggest a glycosyl hydrolase having an HCA score with the kappa-carrageenase of *Alteromonas carrageenovora* of at least 75%". The examiner does not agree. The two instant references teach the kappa-carrageenase of *Alteromonas carrageenovora*, which is the protein of SEQ ID NO:6 encoded by SEQ ID NO:5. Claim 1 is drawn to a "protein having glycosyl hydrolase activity...[and] having an... (HCA) score with the kappa-carrageenase of *Alteromonas carrageenovora* which is greater than or equal to 75%", claims 13-14 are drawn to HCA scores of 80%

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and 85%, respectively, and claim 15 has the limitation that the protein is extracted from *Alteromonas carrageenovora*. It is pointed out that the kappa-carrageenase of *Alteromonas carrageenovora* is the same as SEQ ID NO:6 and therefore it has an HCA score of 100% with SEQ ID NO:6. Although the HCA score is not taught in the instant references and Potin, et al. (W) does not teach the sequence of the protein, they both teach the kappa-carrageenase of *Alteromonas carrageenovora*. The HCA score and sequence are inherent characteristics of the protein and as such lend no patentability to the protein *per se*.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Potin, et al. (V). This rejection is repeated for the reasons given in the last action. Applicants arguments have been carefully considered but do not overcome the instant rejection.

Claims 13-14 have been dropped from the instant rejection. Applicant argue that "the HCA method compares the elements of the secondary structure of two proteins and the Potin et al (W) reference, which fails even to disclose the primary structure of a kappa-carrageenase from *Cytophaga*, cannot be said to anticipate the claims, as amended". The examiner does not agree. As stated *supra*, the HCA score is an inherent characteristic of the protein. As taught on page 15, lines 32-34, the HCA score of the *Alteromonas carrageenovora* and *Cytophaga drobachiensis* proteins is 75.4%. Therefore the instant reference teaches a glycosyl hydrolase having at least 75% over the domain from 117-262.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles L. Patterson, Jr., PhD, whose telephone number is 571-272-0936. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:30 to 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy, can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see

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<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Charles L. Patterson, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1652

Patterson
July 16, 2004